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# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## For the Year 1953.

W. K. Morton & Sons, Printers, West Street, Bourne

# BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report and that of your Sanitary Inspector for 1953.

### A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area in acres ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10,103 |
| Population—Registrar General's Figures 1953 ... | 4,996 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses ... ... ... | 1,603 |
| Rateable Value ... ... ... ... ... | £25,832 |
| Sum represented by a 1d. rate ... ... | £100 9s. 2d. |

### VITAL STATISTICS.

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Births ... ... | 45 | 41 | 86 |
| Deaths ... ... | 26 | 31 | 57 |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... ... ... | | | Nil |
| ,, ,, Measles ... ... ... ... | | | ,, |
| ,, ,, Whooping Cough ... ... ... | | | ,, |
| ,, ,, Diarrhoea (Under 2 years) ... ... | | | ,, |

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Still Births ... ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 years | 4 | — | 4 |
| ,, ,, ,, ,, 4 weeks | 2 | — | 2 |

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|---|---|
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms | 2 | 2 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 3 | 6 |
| Coronary disease angina ... ... ... | 1 | 2 |
| Other heart disease ... ... ... ... | 6 | 12 |
| Influenza ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | — |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | 3 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ... | 1 | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Congenital malformations ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 4 | 4 |
| Motor Vehicle accidents ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| All other accidents ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |

## B. HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

The personnel of the Health Services remain the same.

The two Queen's Sisters continue their devoted work.

The Ambulance Service has benefited by the provision of another male attendant.

The Health Service functions smoothly, save in the provision of sufficient accommodation for the aged, sick and infirm.

Suggestions have been made that many of these cases could be nursed at home and restored to health at home. To enable that to be done here on any scale would mean the provision of another nurse for general nursing duties and more Home Helps.

It has not been necessary to invoke Section 47 of the National Assistance Act of 1947.

In 1953 a Hostel for Maladjusted Children was opened for the Counties of Kesteven and Holland.

## C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### HOUSING.

In 1953 11 private houses were completed and
58 Council Houses.

The Housing Act of 1953 imposes on the Council the duty of Slum Clearance and enables them to have border line houses either brought up to reasonable standards or made habitable until such time as the inhabitants can be rehoused. One year is given to the Council in which to submit their proposals to the Ministry.

### WATER.

The town water is chlorinated as a routine.

### CONVERSIONS OF MIDDEN OR PAN CLOSETS TO WATER CLOSETS.

Number converted, 6.

### VERMIN INFESTATION.

Cases dealt with, 2.

## D. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All meat is inspected at the Government Slaughterhouse in conjunction with the South Kesteven Rural District Council.

The Government after a long labour produced their Slaughterhouse Policy. This can be described as the "Moderate Concentration Policy" whereby some 400 Slaughterhouses will serve the whole Country.

Until these are in operation, Local Authorities have to provide Slaughterhouses or licensed Slaughterhouses, so that the supply of meat to the public shall not be interrupted when meat rationing ends.

Prolonged discussions are taking place with the various bodies concerned, Farmers, Butchers, Local Authorities.

Your Council have wisely decided to run the present Eastgate Slaughterhouse. A certain amount of improvement will be necessary as the implementation of the Government Moderate Concentration Policy will not take place for some years. The Government say *three*, but it is doubtful if that target will be reached.

In my opinion the Slaughterhouses should be in the areas of large live stock population not in areas of large human population —the nearer the beast to the Slaughterhouse, the better the condition it is killed in. Bourne also has a large waste product works adjacent to the Slaughterhouse. Certainly no town the centre of livestock production is better qualified to have a permanent slaughterhouse than Bourne.

Ice Cream Samples are taken regularly.

A careful watch is kept to ensure that at least the minimum Clean Food Standards are observed.

## E. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No epidemics occurred during 1953.

I would urge that mothers have their children immunized against Diphtheria. Though it is some years since a case occurred in your District, failure to keep up a satisfactory level of immunization will assuredly allow that terrible disease to emerge again.

The regular monthly analyses of the Swimming Bath Water are taken during the summer months. The improvement of the Sanitary Conveniences is still in hand.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases and Mortality of 1953.

| Age Periods | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0—1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1—2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2—5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 5—15 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 15—25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25—35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35—45 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | |
| 45—55 | 2 | - | - | - | - | | - | |
| 55—65 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

## F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

| | Diphtheria | Puerperal Pyrexia | Pneumonia | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Measels | Whooping Cough | Erysipelas | Dysentry | Scarlet Fever | Acute Poliomyelitis | Cerebro Spinal Fever | Paratyphoid Fever |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 1 year | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1—2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2—3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3—4 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 4—5 | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5—10 | - | - | 2 | - | 4 | 6 | - | - | 13 | - | - | - |
| 10—15 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - |
| 15—20 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20—35 | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35—45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45—65 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | - | - | 7 | - | 20 | 11 | 2 | - | 20 | - | - | - |
| Admitted into Hospital | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

I hope in the near future that the Dyke Water Scheme, the Wood View Water Scheme and above all the new Bourne Sewage Works will either be completed or at least started, but that will be in my Successor's day, and to him, I am sure, my fellow Officers will extend the same ready help and support that they have always given me in the past.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. GALLETLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report for 1953.

### A. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Housing.**—58 houses were completed during the year also 11 private houses.

One Clearance Area comprising six dwellinghouses was dealt with. Two houses were voluntary demolished. Notice of Time and Place, under Section 1 of the Housing Act was served in respect of two houses for which undertakings were accepted.

**Sewage Disposal and Drainage.** — The problems of sewage disposal becomes still graver. Sixty-nine further buildings apart from general improvements of amenities to existing houses have been added during the year. Problems regarding the discharge of effluent from the proposed new sewage works have not been overcome, so let us hope that some definite progress here is not long distant.

Six vault closets have been converted to the water carriage system.

**Refuse Collection.**—Refuse collection is carried out weekly in the town area, once a fortnight at Dyke and Cawthorpe, and monthly in the North Fen Area. A voluntary trade collection scheme is carried out, on payment of costs.

**Rodent Control.** — Periodical treatment of sewers, sewage works and the refuse tip are carried out. Complaints are investigated and the necessary action taken by the Rodent Operator.

A total of 44 premises were visited on complaint and survey. 22 dwellinghouses and 6 business premises were treated.

**Disinfestation.**—Two verminous houses were dealt with.

**Public Health and Housing Acts.**—The following complaints were dealt with:—

| | No. of Complaints | Informal Notices | Statutory Notices |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offensive watercourses ... ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Conversion of vault closets ... | 3 | 3 | — |
| Housing defects ... ... ... | 11 | 11 | — |
| Keeping of animals, poultry, etc. | 2 | 2 | — |
| Insufficient water supply ... | 21 | 21 | 4 |
| Defective drainage ... ... | 6 | 6 | — |
| Accumulation of refuse ... | 4 | 4 | — |
| Defective or insufficient dustbins | 6 | 6 | — |
| Other matters ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | — |

## B. INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Meat Inspection—Animals intended for food are slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse. Ante-mortem inspection was carried out in some cases but post-mortem inspection was carried out to all carcases with the co-operation of the South Kesteven Rural District Council.

A total number of 4,519 animals were inspected during the year made up as follows:—

| Bulls | Bullocks | Cows | Heifers | Calves |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 311 | 278 | 270 | 381 |

| Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---|
| 2,251 | 1,259 |

Total weight of meat condemned:—

27 tons, 1 cwt., 3 qr., 6 lbs.

The following tables gives details of carcases inspected and condemned and the percentages of the total number of carcases inspected which were found to be affected with (1) diseases other than tuberculosis, (2) tuberculosis.

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed ... | 596 | 278 | 381 | 2,251 | 1,259 |
| **All diseases except Tuberculosis:** | | | | | |
| (a) Whole carcases condemned ... | 16 | 10 | 69 | 43 | 46 |
| (b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. | 84 | 60 | 2 | 69 | 217 |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .. | 16.78% | 25.18% | 18.64% | 4.98% | 20.89% |
| **Tuberculosis only:** | | | | | |
| (a) Whole carcases condemned ... | 13 | 10 | 1 | — | 6 |
| (b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. | 76 | 84 | — | — | 78 |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. | 14.93% | 33.81% | 0.26% | —% | 7.47% |

**Meat Inspection (Horses).** — Horses are slaughtered at a Licensed Slaughterhouse in the town. A total of 643 horses were inspected and the following weight of meat and offal condemned: —

| Meat | Offal |
|---|---|
| 15 cwts. 91 lbs. | 1 ton 2 cwts. 108 lbs. |

**Biological Sampling of Milk.**—Five samples of raw milk were taken and submitted for Biological Examination.

Action was taken regarding one positive sample. The herd concerned was examined and one cow slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938. The herd was later certified to be free. The milk from this particular producer is now pasteurised.

**Food Premises.**—The following types of food premises are in the area.

| | |
|---|---|
| Butchers' Shops ... ... ... | 8 |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... | 5 |
| Grocers ... ... ... ... | 15 |
| Restaurants and Cafes ... ... | 7 |

The following visits were made: —

| | |
|---|---|
| Butchers' Shops ... ... ... | 15 |
| Restaurants ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Other Premises ... ... ... | 10 |
| Ice Cream Premises ... ... ... | 19 |

Two Notices were served with respect to sanitary conveniences and installation of hot water.

The necessary works were carried out.

The following unsound food was examined in shops, etc., and surrendered voluntarily: —

Tinned Tomatoes, 42 lbs.
Tinned Milk, 14 lbs.
Meat 70 lbs.
Tinned Fruit, 195 lbs.
Tinned Meat, 299 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables, 6 lbs.
Other Foods, 54 lbs.

**Condemned Food.**—All unsound meat is disposed of to a local firm who are registered for this purpose. Other condemned food is destroyed under supervision.

**Sale of Ice Cream.**—Ice cream is manufactured and sold from one premises only, where the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations 1947 to 1952 are observed. Ice Cream is sold from 12 other premises.

The premises have been kept under observation; 16 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination. The final results were satisfactory.

## C. FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

The following tables show the inspections made:—

| | No. on Register | Inspections | Informal Notices |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Factories without Mechanical Power Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforceable by Local Authority ... ... ... | 11 | 8 | 1 |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforceable by the Local Authority. (Factories with Mechanical Power) ... ... | 46 | 20 | 4 |
| (3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforceable ... ... ... | 2 | — | — |

The defects found referred to defective or inadequate Sanitary Conveniences.

In reviewing the year many improvements have taken place in the general interest or hygiene, and it is encouraging to see that unfit houses are likely to be dealt with in the near future.

The delay in regard to the construction of new sewage works is acute.

The prospect of laying the town water main to the village of Dyke, however, is anticipated and looked forward to.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my Staff for their help during the year and record my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by my fellow officers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. HOWARD.

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer.